

NEW YORK.

PROCEEDINGS

OF

A MEETING IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY,

Opposed to the United States Bank, and to the restoration of the Deposites, and approving the course of the Executive in relation thereto.

JUNE 26, 1834.

Read, and laid upon the table.

At a very numerous and spirited meeting of republican electors of the county of Montgomery, convened, pursuant to public notice, at the Jackson House in Johnstown, on the 21st day of May, 1834, Seth Wetmore, of Canajoharie, was appointed President; Samuel Jackson, of Florida, Jacob Shew, of Northampton, Jacob Hees, of Palatine, William Rob, of Amsterdam, Vice Presidents; David Spraker, of Canajoharie, and C. S. Grinnell, of Northampton, Secretaries.

On motion of Wm. I. Dodge, a committee of nine persons was appointed to report a series of resolutions for the consideration of the meeting. The following persons were named by the President to constitute said committee: Wm. I. Dodge, Elijah Wilcox, Livingston Spraker, Nathan Brown, G. D. Ferguson, John French, Elihu Enos, Henry Adams, and Mathias J. Bovee.

It was then resolved unanimously that John Sanford, Artois Hamilton, Thomas Hill, Malachi Kittle, Abraham Becker, Aaron C. Whitlock, Jay Cady, Peter Wood, John S. Veeder, A. K. Morehouse, Samuel A. Gilbert, C. S. Grinnell, J. O. Brown, A. Dillenback, Daniel Spraker, and Henry Cook, be a committee to recommend to the meeting suitable persons for a corresponding committee for the ensuing year.

The committee appointed to name persons for a corresponding committee for the ensuing year, reported the following—the report was unanimously agreed to:

Amsterdam, Mathias J. Bovee; Bleecker, Jacob Spaulding; Broadalbin, Allen Burr; Canajoharie, David Spraker; Charleston, William Carlisle; Ephratah, John L. Hutchinson; Florida, Jay Cady; Glen, Cornelius H. Putman; Hope, Nathan B. Lobdell; Johnstown, George D. Ferguson, Isaac Jackson, Russell Prentice, Rouse Simmons, John S. Veeder, R. H. Cushney, Garret Winne, Elihu Enos, Abraham Morrell, J. W. Miller, Wm. I. Dodge, T. A. Stoutenburgh, T. Sammons, jr., P. Reynolds, jr., Lake Pleasant, George Courtney; Mayfield, Collins Odell; Minden,

Henry Adams; Northampton, C. S. Grinnell; Oppenheim, Nathan Brown; Palatine, George S. Zielly; Root, John Burns, jr; Stratford, Silas Phillips; Wells, John L. Francisco.

Mr. Dodge, from the committee appointed to draught resolutions, reported the following :

Resolved, That we view the present as the most important political contest which has agitated the country since the election of the illustrious Jefferson; a contest, not for the forms, the honor, or the emoluments of office, but of principle; a contest, not by our venerated President and his patriotic cabinet alone, against the corruption, the intrigues, the falsehoods, and the gold of the United States Bank, but a struggle for mastery by a moneyed aristocracy, backed by a corrupt monopoly, over the democratic party, our republican institutions, and the constitution.

Resolved, That our much revered and esteemed Chief Magistrate, Andrew Jackson, has fully redeemed, since his re-election, the pledge which in his Veto Message he gave to his fellow-citizens, and to which they responded through the ballot boxes by an unprecedented majority against the recharter of the United States Bank. We feel grateful to Divine Providence that, at this important crisis, when venality and corruption stalk through our land at noon-day, when tories of '76, and their legitimate descendants, the blue-lights and Hartford conventionists of 1814, and the nullifiers of 1833, having abandoned their former names and disguises, claim to be exclusive patriots and whigs; when a moneyed aristocracy, claiming all the wealth, all the talents, and all the integrity, seek to subvert our institutions through the love of money, justly styled the *root of all evil*, a soldier and patriot of the revolution, a hero of two wars, an honest man whom menace and danger could not deter, nor gold corrupt, whose isolated state had no interest but that of his country's welfare, whose age left him no ambition but to transmit our free institutions unimpaired to posterity, was found to interpose his own body as a shield to the constitution, against the approach of the grasping and demoralizing influence of wealth; to say to corruption, "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further."

Resolved, That our highest gratitude is justly due to our friend and fellow-citizen, Martin Van Buren, Vice President of the United States; to the Senators and democratic Representatives of this State in Congress, particularly our immediate Representative, Charles McVean; to the minority in the Senate and to the majority of the House of Representatives, collectively and individually, for their firm and undeviating support of the President of the United States in this arduous struggle; for their determined resistance to the usurpations, encroachments, and *golden* influence of the Bank. An honest man, in ordinary times, may justly be considered "the noblest work of God;" but when vice prevails, and becomes in high places the fashion of the day, when virtue is too vulgar and democratic to be the companion of wealth, and is banished to the cottage, in men exposed daily to this influence, to eschew evil is indeed God-like.

Resolved, That, although the public mind might, in many instances, have been deceived, at the commencement of the present contest, as to its true merits, and have attributed the *pressure* to its proximate and not to its real cause, we are satisfied that a more enlarged and correct view of the subject is daily, and almost as it were by intuition, spreading over the country; the yeomanry, the backbone of the republic, our safety in war, our support in peace, men who are far removed from the source and foun-

tains of corruption, are awakening to the importance of the question. They will rally round the constitution and the laws in opposition to a moneyed institution. Opposed to tyranny in every shape, under every disguise it may assume, it will not be more welcome though clothed in purple and glittering with gold.

Resolved, That we request our public officers and representatives, from the President down, to persevere in resistance to the all-absorbing power of wealth; to oppose the recharter of the United States Bank; to compel it to submit to the constitution and the laws; to probe to the bottom, and expose to the public view, all its iniquities, all its bargains, both in and out of Congress, no matter on whom or where the censure may fall. The example will be beneficial to the present and future generations: it was emphatically demanded by the freemen of this country at the last Presidential election; it is equally demanded now. Let not the clamor of the reckless, the venal, those who hug the gold of the Bank closer to their bosom than the liberties of their country, deter you from the performance of your duty. We are aware of the power of the Bank; it has already been felt; but, through the blessing of Providence, our farms will yield the necessities of life; we can and will, if unavoidable, do without its luxuries; we will not entail upon our children a curse which, by the very means it exercises to promote and continue its influence, exhibits to the world the power that we fear, and the danger we would, if possible, avert. We are still almost in the infancy of our republic; the pure patriotic feeling which actuated the heroes of the revolution, still lingers with the survivors, and encircles the brow of our venerable Chief Magistrate. The Bank has been in existence but 18 years; in its struggle to obtain votes enough in Congress to secure its recharter, it has not only paralyzed, in a great degree, the public credit, created a convulsion in the money market which is felt throughout our whole land, polluted our fountains of political intelligence, (the public press,) but it has in some measure impaired public confidence in the wisdom and foresight of our President and his cabinet, shaken the opinion of some of the weaker members of the democratic party in the policy of supporting Andrew Jackson in the many acts which, by an almost overwhelming vote, the people directed him to do, and which we pledged ourselves to back him in. Viewing the subject in this light only, we conceive it not too much to say that an institution possessing so much power and influence is already dangerous to the liberties and constitution of our country, and its recharter, which would double or treble its power, would enable it to become perpetual. If we cannot resist it now, what will we be able to do twenty years hence? "If such things are done in the green tree, what will be done in the dry?"

Resolved, That we approve of the removal, by the Secretary of the Treasury, of the deposits from the United States Bank to the State banks. From the statements of the Bank itself, from the amount of specie hoarded in its vaults, and from the fact that the charter being about to expire, it became necessary and proper that the Bank should curtail its discounts, and reduce rather than expand its issues; and from the exhibitions already given of the character and nature of its operations, we are satisfied that the change of the place of deposit of the United States revenue to the local banks, became not only proper but highly necessary, and it has tended, in our opinion, to relieve, in no small degree, the pressure occasioned by the Bank.

Resolved, That we highly approve of the act passed by the Legislature of

this State, upon the recommendation of Governor Marcy, as a measure of precaution to save our people from the dangerous power of the Bank. The evil that institution has already done, has forewarned us of its power; and should we neglect to guard ourselves from the evils it may produce when we have the power to do so, and should difficulties arise, the people would have just cause for complaint against those to whom they have confided their interests. If this preparation for war shall, as it most frequently does, ensure peace; if the Bank shall cease its efforts to injure the commerce and currency of our State, our Governor and Legislature will be entitled to the lasting gratitude of their fellow-citizens. If the loan is not wanted, it will not be made. If taken in part or in whole, the public officers will see, and the law has provided, that it shall be abundantly secured by the banks or the counties, beyond almost the possibility of loss. No county will receive or be accountable for any of the money, unless by the consent of its citizens, through their supervisors, and then it will be loaned on the most ample real estate security by the county loan officers. When the object of this law, and the law itself, is laid before the people, no candid, no reflecting, no prudent man will hesitate in approving the foresight which anticipated and prepared for the emergency.

Resolved, That we recommend to our democratic friends in Congress to use their utmost exertions to complete with all practicable despatch the necessary business of the session, and then immediately to adjourn. It is the policy of the Bank party to retard as much as possible; to keep up the public excitement, conscious that their cause is unjust, and that it will not bear a calm investigation; to make speeches to deceive the people; to find fault with all and every measure of Government; and to prevent, if possible, by a continued and incessant repetition of various and different false charges, a deliberate investigation by the people. The opposition fancy that the electors are not sufficiently intelligent and discriminating to see through and detect their secret designs; they vainly imagine that the people will believe that for so much clamor there must be some foundation, and that when so many professions of honesty and patriotism are made; there must be some semblance of truth. The ballot boxes will show that they are justly understood and appreciated. The professions of "all the honesty, all the virtue, all the talents, and all the wealth party," vary too much from their practice, long to deceive a free and intelligent people.

Resolved, That the above resolutions be signed by the President, Vice Presidents, and Secretaries of this meeting, and such other of our fellow-citizens who approve of these proceedings, and that they be transmitted to our Representatives and Senators in Congress for presentation, and published in the republican papers of this county, and in the Albany Argus.

After several gentlemen had addressed the meeting, ably and spiritedly, the question on the adoption of the resolutions was put, and carried unanimously and by acclamation.

SETH WETMORE, *President*.

SAMUEL JACKSON,	} <i>Vice Presidents.</i>
JACOB SHEW,	
JACOB HEES,	
WILLIAM ROBE,	

DAVID SPRAKER,	} <i>Secretaries.</i>
C. S. GRINNELL,	